



CONNECTICUT POLICE CHIEFS ASSOCIATION

342 North Main Street, West Hartford, Connecticut 06117-2507

(860) 586-7506 Fax: (860) 586-7550 Web site: www.cpcanet.org

Testimony to the Program Review and Investigations Committee

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Chiefs Anthony Salvatore & James Strillacci, Connecticut Police Chiefs Association

We are here to speak on **RB #204, An Act Implementing the Recommendations of the Program Review and Investigations Committee Concerning the Sale of Alcoholic Liquor On Sunday.**

The Connecticut Police Chiefs Association (CPCA) represents all municipal police department in Connecticut as well as police departments at private and state universities. Among our other duties, these police departments enforce liquor laws and investigate crimes associated with alcohol abuse.

CPCA supports the provisions of Connecticut General Statutes Section 30-91(d) which forbid the sale of alcoholic beverages on Sunday by package stores, drug stores, and grocery stores. RB #204 would allow Sunday sales of alcohol at an estimated 3,000 retail outlets.

Our first concern is added workload without added resources. Police now monitor retail liquor outlets to prevent after-hours sales and sales to minors or drunks, as well as the retail crimes such as robbery, shoplifting, and fraud. Addition of a seventh day of sales per week would increase by *at least* one-sixth the police supervision required of such establishments. (We say "at least" because in all likelihood activity on a Sunday would exceed weekday activity.)

Further, more hours would mean more opportunity to circumvent the law for those who are unable to buy alcohol legally. Minors, who are not in school on Sunday, would have another full day to find a willing adult accomplice, to enlist a minor who looks older, or to use a phony ID. Teenagers--susceptible to peer pressure to sell to minors--are also far more likely to be manning a grocery checkout than tending a bar.

Sunday sales would enable problem drinkers to overindulge. While sober citizens can plan ahead for a cookout, Sunday sales are convenient for those who can use a bottle opener but can't figure out a calendar.

Finally, advocates of Sunday sales assume it will reap more sales and tax revenue because if stores are open one more day, people will buy more and drink more. If they're right that Sunday sales will result in more drinking, they will also lead to more alcohol-related crime, traffic crashes, and especially domestic violence, in which substance abuse is a major factor.

We think that encouraging more drinking is harmful to public safety. We hope that the legislature will not embrace a bad public policy in the hope of a marginal revenue increase.

Connecticut's police chiefs value the protections inherent in the current statute, and we oppose this attempt to weaken them. Thank you for your consideration.